

Some Facts



IN 1988, over 300 Ontario workers died from work-related causes – almost one for each day of the year. More than 400,000 were injured. These accidents and illnesses didn't have to happen.

In addition to the pain and suffering of the individuals and families involved, accidents and illnesses cost the people of Ontario seven million lost workdays. They also cost us \$1.45 billion in compensation payments.

Deaths and injuries result from accidents in all types of workplaces ranging from construction sites to offices. Even the local dry-cleaning shop, bakery or photo-finishing laboratory can be a dangerous place to work.

But while dangers exist in almost every workplace, the risks can be properly managed and kept to a minimum when *everyone* acts responsibly.

Know the Law



It's important for both employers and employees to know and understand Ontario's occupational health and safety law, what it provides and what it requires.

The *Occupational Health and Safety Act* requires employers to provide safe workplaces; it also requires employees to work safely and to report unsafe conditions.

Also, the Act provides workers with a number of important rights. These include:

- the right to know about health hazards in the workplace
- the right to participate in health and safety decisions
- the right to refuse unsafe work.

But laws alone don't make a workplace healthy and safe – teamwork does.

The Ministry's Role



Working alongside employees and employers, the Ontario Ministry of Labour plays an important role on the workplace health and safety team.

The work of the Occupational Health and Safety Division takes its staff to a wide range of workplaces – from large construction, mining and industrial sites to small commercial operations.

Ensuring compliance with the law is part of the ministry's job. But we're also here to advise and help employers and employees so that illness and accidents are prevented.

The ministry's inspectors make about 70,000 workplace visits a year to conduct inspections, to respond to complaints and to consult and advise.

If they find an immediate risk to workers' health or safety, they order the dangerous work stopped. In 1988 alone, they issued 3,110 Stop Work Orders, primarily on construction and industrial worksites.

In cases of less immediate danger, inspectors issue an order requiring compliance with the law.

Our goal is safe, healthy worksites throughout the province.

We're most effective, however, when we have the willing, active cooperation of workers and employers who are equally committed to that goal.



Teamwork on the Job



A work-related accident can happen any time, anywhere – while operating a machine, handling chemicals, moving construction materials, working with equipment in a factory or lifting boxes in an office.

Safe work requires care in job design and properly trained workers. It also demands employers and employees who are safety-conscious *all the time*.

This takes teamwork. It takes constant care and self-discipline. Employers, supervisors and other workers alike must ask themselves "Is the job site safe and is the work being safely done?"

If there's a potential hazard, *everyone* in the workplace has a responsibility to alert others and to take immediate action that will prevent an injury or worse from happening.

As an employer, you can:

- communicate regularly with your employees
- act promptly to control any hazards that are found
- call on the district office of the Ministry of Labour for advice and help.

As an employee you can:

- speak with your supervisor or employer
- talk to your health and safety committee representative, if you have one
- contact the Ministry of Labour district office for advice and information. You'll find our number in the blue pages of your telephone book.

Help put the brakes on work-related injuries and deaths.

Think safety.

Work safely.

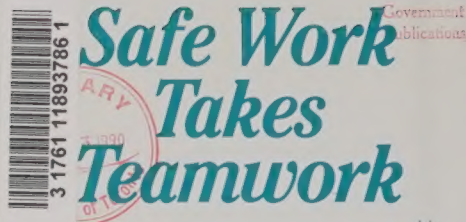
Be safety-conscious all the time.

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(For the district office nearest you, please see the Blue Pages of your telephone book.)

This brochure is also available in French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Greek and Chinese.

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